



## Caring for Your Child after Tympanostomy Tubes

This handout hopefully answers some common questions/problems that arise during the post-operative period.

The tympanostomy tubes allow fluid trapped in the back of the eardrums to drain down the eustachian tubes into the back of the nose, thereby preventing its accumulation and/or infection.

### Common Questions

**Can my child swim, take a bath, shower, etc.?** All of this should be okay. Try to avoid their head being more than 3 feet under water so the water does not get down to the tubes.

**Will there be any drainage?** There may be a small amount of bloody drainage from the ears today and tomorrow morning. After tomorrow, drainage is not normal and usually indicates an ear infection, especially if it is mucous-like or bloody.

**Will my child's ear hurt?** If there is pain the day of surgery, you can use Tylenol® or ibuprofen. If there is pain after the surgery date, please call the office.

**How long will your child's tubes stay in?** The Armstrong tubes should stay in an average of 18 months. The T-tubes stay in an average of 3-4 years.

**Are there any diet or activity restrictions?** No, the child can resume a normal diet after surgery and resume normal activity the next day.

### Emergency phone numbers

Office: **330-379-9070**

Akron Children's ER: **330-543-3000**